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WORLDLY AMUSEMENTS AND TRUE GOD WORSHIP WILL NOT BLEND--THE SEQUEL

(Part 3.)

(By W. M. Morris.)
I believe it a foregone conclusion that there has been a noticeable decline in the spiritual interests as manifested in the great army that composes the Christian church, and some pastors are bold enough to openly declare it, and exhort their flocks to return to their former devotion and love for the cause of Christ; but the idea (an invention of the devil, and

introduced through some sporting ministers) of blending worldly sports with Sabbath and sabbatarian worship of God, has greatly augmented the crowds at Sunday games, and a proportionate falling off in church attendance. The two elements that compose the crowds who will indulge in Sabbath desecrations, and the true disciples of Jesus, will no more blend than will kerosene oil and

water; yet, that is just what many congregations of today are trying to do. Hence the great lamentation from various quarters over the decline of the church. Let every town, city or community look after the enforcement of the fourth commandment, and let every pastor preach the whole Gospel, instead of trying to tickle the ear; then give more attention to his other pastoral duties, and he will not have to preach to empty seats. Too many pastors seem to think their whole work consists of preaching two sermons each Sunday, but it is just as important that they look after the spiritual interests of their flock between sermons, viz: visit any that are sick or in distress from any cause, encourage any that may be discouraged, and make them feel he cares for them. In short, try to infuse a spirit of co-operation between pastor and congregation.

But the average pastor has a very trying task, he has a flock large or small; it is made up of persons of various tastes and temperaments, and any line of work he may adopt will hardly please them all. But if all possessed the true Christian spirit of wishing to serve, rather than to be served, such a condition would not prevail.

Another cause of the decline of the churches of today, as most laymen and some pastors see it, is the new theology being disseminated through pulpits and presses, that is undermining the faith of many church people. When a set of critics can make a true worshipper believe the Old Bible, to which he has ever pinned his faith, and has been an anchor to his soul, that the old book does not mean what it says, his faith in the Christian religion will be undermined right there. I will concede that some of the changes in the new, or revised edition of the Bible, by the substitution of words of the same meaning, may sound a little better, but it is not more inspiring. Then we find in many places the change has destroyed the entire meaning of the whole sentence. For one instance, in the old version, all the Gospel writers record the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb as being "on the first day of the week, early in the morning." Now note how the "smart Alex." make Matthew tell it in the new version: "Now late on the Sabbath day as it began to dawn towards the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher," etc. As the Jewish Sabbath ended Saturday at sun down, our Lord could not have risen any ways near the first day of the week, and we have the grounds for changing the Sabbath to the first day of the week under this version. But this change is no more absurd than some of the other changes.

The revision committee very likely were graduates from some of our modern colleges, whose chief aim is to create or finish up the most efficient ball teams. Too many of that class of church members at the present day is the cause of the attempt to turn so many of our churches into play houses, where banqueting, games and other forms of amusement dominate much of the church services. There should be a whole volume written from this phase of compromising the true God with the devil's program, but space will forbid further notice here from me.

"I do not call into be a prophet or

son of a prophetess, but I have had some peculiar experiences of divine inspiration in which I have been forewarned through premonitions, and otherwise of approaching catastrophes that were of great assistance to me in coming through them as well as I did; and in two instances my life was saved. If you will extend the space for this letter further, I will close by narrating a prophetic vision (or a dream if you prefer to call it a dream) which I had two years ago, and which so impressed me that I wrote it down to await its sequel. The dream: I seemed to be in an enclosure, in the center of which stood a large tree that was loaded to its capacity with beautiful red apples, and making a sight that was tempting to behold. While remarking to a friend who stood by me, on the beautiful sight, the fruit began to drop to the ground and did it stop falling until the fruit was all piled on the ground and the tree stood nude, and while we still stood gazing at each other in wonderment, a drove of swine came and began to eat the apples, and in a short space of time the fruit was all consumed. After the last of the fruit had disappeared the swine moved away looking more gaunt, and seeming more hungry than when they first appeared. While we both stood there unable to speak from the shock of the phenomena, a personage of a divine appearance suddenly stood before us, who anticipating our bewilderment, said in a sweet but positive tone: "You want to know the meaning of this incident you have just beheld. Take heed to what I say. The people of all nations now have an abundance of bread to feed their chil-

dren, but this generation will not pass away until wars will consume it all, and the children of the world will be calling for bread."

The foregoing vision, whether a

dream or otherwise, made such an impression upon my mind that I wrote it down and filed it away to await the sequel. While there is still plenty of food in our country, the

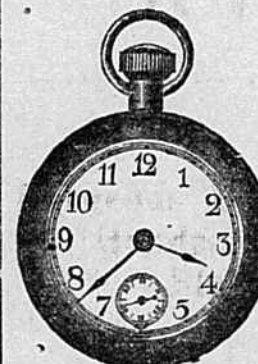
war in Europe is still raging and all of "this generation" have not yet passed away. Let us hope that no more of this prophetic dream will be realized.

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